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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY / TRINITY SUNDAY

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5 JUNE

#BeatPlasticPollution

liturgy for clergy

Trinity Sunday /World Environment Day

Introduction

Today we celebrate both Trinity Sunday and World Environment Day. The theme for this year's World Environment Day is "Beat Plastic Pollution". Plastic has many valuable uses, but the problem is *single use plastics* which have severe environmental, social, economic and health consequences.

Around the world, one million plastic bottles are purchased every minute, while up to five trillion plastic bags are used worldwide every year. Half of all plastic produced is designed for single-use purposes – used just once and then thrown away.

We have also seen a worrying shift towards more single-use plastic products, which grew worse during COVID. A third of all plastics produced are used in packaging of which approximately 85 per cent ends up in landfills or the ocean.

Additionally, plastic products are produced from oil, releasing greenhouse gases during production, use and disposal. As the world moves to using less oil with electrification of cars, the fossil fuel companies are planning to increase the amount of plastic to fill the gap in sales.

LITURGY

READINGS

1st READING

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

PSALM

Psalms 8

2nd READING

2 Cor 13:11-13

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16-20

PENITENCE

Giver of Life,
in the midst of a plundered
earth we groan with creation:
Have mercy on us.

Giver of Life,
in the midst of poisoned water
we groan with creation:
Have mercy on us.

Giver of Life,
in the midst of polluted air we
groan with creation:
Have mercy on us.

Giver of Life,
in the midst of mountains of waste
we groan with creation:
Have mercy on us.

Giver of Life,
we who are made in the image of God have
gone astray,
and creation groans with us:
Have mercy on us.

1. Source: *Worshipping Ecumenically*, WCC Publications

COLLECTS

Collect for World Environment Day

Creator of the universe,
we pray in gratitude and praise.
You were there at the beginning of all things,
shaping our world and preparing it for us.
You have provided the mountains and the trees,
the waters and the earth.
Help us to be caretakers of your gifts,
protecting the land from abuse,
and ready to share with all in need.
Show us how to use our science and
technology in creative ways.
Deepen our awareness of our connectedness with all your creation,
so that future generations will also enjoy every blessing. **Amen**

Collect for Trinity Sunday

God of unchangeable power;
You have revealed yourself to us
as Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Keep us firm in this faith that we may praise
and bless your Holy name, for you are one God,
living and reigning in glory,
now and for ever. **Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Suggested prayers from a number of sources.

Lord God our Father
Let our walk this day be
Full of beauty and brightness
Lord, hear us.

That we may know
Your presence and your peace
Lord, hear us.

That we may experience
Your grace and your glory
Lord, hear us.

That we may be at one
With you and your creation
Lord, hear us.

That we may be aware of you
In and through and above all things.
Lord, hear us.

**God bless the path on which I go.
God bless the earth beneath my sole.
God bless the fellowship that makes us
whole. Amen**

A prayer for recycling

We thank you for the resources of the world,
and for the many goods available to us.
Grant us wisdom and restraint in our
spending and consumption;
grant us inspiration in the re-use and
recycling of resources.

Bless those who collect our waste and those
who work to recycle it
Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Source: Diocese of Newcastle

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

FIRST EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God

Let us give thanks to the Lord,
our God of all of Creation

It is right to give God thanks and praise

You spoke the Word and all that is in
heaven and on the earth, all things,
came to be. Your Spirit hovered over
the primal elements, and you brought
forth life in forms innumerable,
including this our fragile earth, and we
amongst its inhabitants.

As our past is in you, so our hope for
the future rests with you. As we have
turned from your way, so we turn again
to the warmth of your love. Through
you all things are brought to new life.

And now we give you thanks for the
glories of your creation given into our
care, and for the opportunities we
have to share that richness with all
your people.

And so with the wonders of creation
and the songs of praise of all your
creatures both in heaven and on earth
we praise you now and forever saying:

Holy, holy...

In the night that Jesus was betrayed,
he took bread, work of human hands,
gift of our earth, and gave thanks to
God. He broke the bread to speak to
us of the breaking of his body upon
the cross. He gave it to his friends
and said: *Take and eat, for this is my
body which is given for you. Do this in
remembrance of me.*

He took the wine, work of human
hands, gift of our earth, and gave
thanks to God, Creator. He poured
out the wine to speak to us of the
pouring out of his blood. He gave it
to his friends saying:
*This is my blood of the new covenant,
shed for you and for all creation for
the forgiveness of sins. Every time
you drink of the wine, do this in
remembrance of me.*

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Therefore God, we who seek
your reconciliation; we who need
reconciliation one with another; we
who hope for reconciliation with all

creation, draw close to this mystery.

In being broken, poured out and buried, life sprang forth again. In the breaking, there is an opening up; in the pouring out, there are the roots of sharing; in death and burial, there is the seed of the new life to come.

As we look in our world, in our lives, and in our hearts, for his second coming, keep us close to this vision that we have seen. Through the giving in the bread and wine, reconcile us to our world. Send upon us, and upon all your creation, the life-giving Spirit who first moved upon the waters of the deep. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive. Unite us with you through the body and blood of your Son, your Word made flesh.

By whom, and with whom and in whom, in the unity of your Creative

Spirit, with all that has been, is, and will be in your universe, we stand before you and worship you, God of all, in songs of everlasting praise, Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer etc

Final blessing

Go out into the world rejoicing, and encounter the Creator who waits to meet you there;
Rejoice in its richness and diversity and live as those who praise God for its bounty;
and the blessing of the Creator God, the Eternal Father, the Risen Son and the Promised Holy Spirit
bless you that you might be a blessing to others today and always.

Amen

SECOND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We thank and praise you almighty Father. In wisdom you guide the course of the world and cherish us with all tender care.

We thank you that we can come together around this table in the name of Jesus your Son, the first born of all creation. In him all things were

created, visible and invisible, and all things hold together in him.

We thank you that you have sent your Holy Spirit to make of us a new community of faith to serve you within your creation.

And now we give you thanks because you have given the earth into our care, and call us to praise you day by day for the marvels of your creation.

And so with the wonders of creation and the songs of praise of all your creatures both in heaven and on earth we join in one great act of awe and adoration:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your
glory:
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

God of all creation, send your Spirit upon the goodness of the earth, and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that in them we may recognize and receive the fullness of the Risen Christ: bread broken and wine poured, Body given, and Blood shed.

On the night he sat at table with his disciples and with them recalled the wonder of your creation and the wonder of your covenant with your chosen people, He took bread, gave you thanks, blessed it and broke it, saying: *Take this all of you and eat it. This is my Body, which will be given up for you.*

In the same way he took the cup and giving you thanks and praise, He gave the cup to his disciples and said: *Take this all of you and drink from it, this is the cup of my Blood, the Blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in memory of me.*

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

As we remember the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we celebrate the goodness of the earth, our companionship in this world and the sharing of all skills and arts that enrich our lives. We share the cup of our humanity matured over the unnumbered centuries of the long struggle that has gone into making of this world; our living and dying, our fears and our hopes.

Together with those who have drawn sustenance from this soil, those with whom we share it, and those to whom we pass it on, we share this bread and raise this cup in fulfilment of the Lord's command: through him, with him, in him in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, Almighty Father, forever and ever
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer etc

Final blessing

Go forth confident in the hope in which you have been saved:
Praise God in all creation:
follow Christ through whom all things are made:
in the power of the Spirit become a beacon of hope to the world:
and the blessing of the Creator God, the Eternal Father, the Risen Son and the promised Holy Spirit bless you that you might be a blessing to others today and always.

Amen

Authorised for use in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa by the Synod of Bishops.

<http://www.greenanglicans.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/season-of-creation-online2.pdf>

SENDING OUT

Final Blessing

God our Creator loves justice and right and fills the earth with love.
May God bless you with a passion for justice and a love of creation.

Jesus our Redeemer promises to be with us to the end of time.
May God bless you with the eyes to see and the ears to hear the Word of God in Creation.

God the Spirit sustains and renews the face of the Earth. May God bless you with reverence for all creation and a passion to renew what has been desecrated.

May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. **Amen**



SERMON NOTES

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

The Bible is opened with the creation story that presented who God is – the almighty and compassionate creator of everything. Paying attention to creating what else could complement to what God has created. God created everything considering the inter-relatedness and interconnectedness of the whole creation. God created everything by simply speaking – through God's words they were created – with the exception of human beings as they were formed from the dust and breathed life into (2:7). We were actually created from the soil of the earth. God created human beings in God's own image and charged them to be fill the earth and rule over the animals. Human beings were created with special attention and intricacy – fearfully and wonderfully made.

Psalms 8

This Psalm, also believed to have been written by David, proclaims praise to God for God's power shown by the majesty of the stars and moon as well as God's favour and love to human beings. Using the imagery of war and kingly reign, the psalmist expressed his thanksgiving for God's protection and deliverance. The psalmist lifts up humankind in saying that God made human beings little less than a god, crowning our head with glory and honour, and master of over all creation.

Matthew 28:16-20

As Jesus was about to leave the disciples and ascend to the heavens, Jesus commissioned them to preach what he had taught them – spread the good news of God's love, make disciples and baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In saying this, Jesus acknowledged the diverse characteristic of God, the trinity.

Subdue. Rule over. Dominion. Why were these words used? It's as if the rest of the creation is subject to us, putting humankind above them and having power over them. And this has what we, the humankind has been doing. We have been ruling and having dominion over the rest of the creation and look at what has become of our rule. We have become greedy and have exploited God's creation. We have killed animals and drove them to extinction. We have taken more than what we can consume.

Subdue. Rule over. Dominion. We are made in the image of God and so our so called 'rule' should be more in the image of a loving Father, not an abusive one. How about: Love. Take care. Protect. If these words were used, would our behaviour towards the rest of the creation be any different?

Interconnectedness. Interrelatedness. Interdependency. There is a need for us to remember Jesus' life and teachings which is love. Jesus came to this world to remind us of this. We were so

preoccupied with subduing, ruling over and having dominion over others not just the animals and plants but we also tried to do so with our fellow human beings.

This interconnectedness, interrelatedness and interdependency is also exhibited by God's characteristic. God is a community in Godself – Father, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit. They all have distinct personhood and characteristics and yet are one.

As we celebrate the Trinity Sunday, celebrating the diversity and unity of Godself, let us assess ourselves and find the connection that we have with others – fellow human beings and the whole of creation. Let us not exempt ourselves from the web of life, for we are part of it. We are affected if we distort and disrespect this web, as we are experiencing now.

Let us recognize the space that we occupy and the space that we share with the rest of the creation. In recognizing this space, let us become mindful of our fellow creation and not become greedy and take more than what we can consume leaving others with less and the rest with nothing. In recognizing this space and becoming mindful of others in everything that we do incarnates the love of God and becomes the realization of the fullness of life for all.

*by Rev Niza Joy Santiago, Philippines
(Sustainable Preaching)*

RESOURCES

Video on plastic pollution <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yomf5pBN8dY>

REFERENCES

Adapted from
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